

efficiently and trade those products with other nations that produce other goods more efficiently. His theory still makes economic sense—if all you care about is economic theory. But as the current steel crisis demonstrates his theory has two fundamental flaws.

First, governments don't let pure economic competition decide what products their industries will produce, export or import. Nations decide to subsidize certain products because they deem it in their national interest for a variety of reasons: to protect vital industries, create jobs, and achieve national pride, to name just a few. Other nations decide to throw up barriers, direct and indirect, to achieve a national interest by selling their products overseas below cost or by keeping foreign products out.

Second, nations may well decide that importing goods at the lowest price is not the only or most important consideration in determining how open their markets should be. Unemployment carries enormous costs, direct and indirect. Welfare, unemployment compensation, retirement contributions, and the agonizing destruction of families which are torn asunder from the ravages of the inability to support their families, are societal costs that go far beyond economic measure.

So it is time for a new socioeconomic paradigm. To work, Ricardo's Theory of Comparative Advantage needs to be modified to include both the relative costs of production in different countries and the national interests relating to international trade. Can the United States retain its preeminence in the world if its steel industry is weakened by artificially low-cost foreign competition? Can we remain strong if our aviation or ocean shipping industry is dependent upon foreign planes and ships in times of national emergency? On a more personal level, do the benefits of lower-priced shirts and shoes from third world countries outweigh the costs of welfare, unemployment compensation, and the family pain caused by chronic employment? Simplistic 19th century free trade solutions no longer serve our country well. Nor would a blind protectionist policy that blocks most foreign trade. It's time for a more complex balancing of economic benefits realized through foreign trade and the legitimate national interest in preserving a strong domestic economy.

Balanced international trade with reciprocal open markets is a worthy economic policy so long as our vital national interests are preserved. But that calls for a much more complex socioeconomic policy than either Democratic or Republican administrations have embraced to date.

NATIONAL PARKS CHECK-OFF ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the National Parks Check-off Act because of my concern about the condition of our national parks.

This same legislation was reported out of the Resources Committee during the 105th Congress with bipartisan support having 80 cosponsors.

The National Parks Check-off Act will amend the Internal Revenue Code and require that Federal income tax forms contain a line

which will allow taxpayers to donate one or more dollars to the National Park Service. This legislation will provide more money for the care of our national parks and there will be no cost to the federal government.

A study released by the National Parks and Conservation Association found that 8 out of 10 people surveyed would be willing to increase their tax contribution by \$1 to benefit the National Park System.

During a House Resources Committee hearing during the 105th Congress Allan Howe, from the National Park Hospitality Association, testified that:

Over the last three years the Presidential Check-Off has raised over \$200 million. While there is considerable interest in presidential elections every four years, there is a continued and sustained interest in our National Parks, which should yield even more support.

I agree, and I believe if this bill is passed millions of dollars could be raised to address the \$4–\$6 billion backlog that our parks currently face.

During the 105th Congress, this legislation was supported by organizations such as the National Park and Conservation Association, America Outdoors, the American Hiking Society, the Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains, the National Tour Association and many others.

I hope my colleagues will join me by cosponsoring this most important legislation which will help preserve our national treasures for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO BEN OLSEN

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who, at the age of just 21, has begun to make a strong mark in his field of endeavor. Ben Olsen, from Middletown, PA, has, within one year of becoming a professional soccer player, accomplished things that many older players must surely envy.

On February 21, in just his second game for the United States National Team, Ben scored his first international goal against Chile in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He played the full 90 minutes as a wing midfielder, a position which requires not only great skill, but a remarkable work ethic, since he is required to play both offense and defense. This great responsibility means that at the international level, he is likely to run between 6–9 miles per game. He is a true "two-way" player who demonstrates great skill in addition to defensive tenacity. He is, at different times in a game, a quarterback, wide receiver, running back, linebacker, and defensive back.

In just a year of professional play, Ben has proven that he has the right mix of intelligence, speed, skill, and aggression that is the hallmark of an international-caliber player. Each time he takes the field in an American uniform, it is obvious when you watch him play that he truly recognizes the honor of representing his country. He exemplifies the finest American traditions of hard work, teamwork, and desire to succeed.

Indeed, he has been successful. In his first year with DC United in Major League Soccer, Ben played every game and won Rookie of

the Year honors. Additionally, he was instrumental in helping his team accomplish something an American team has never done: win the CONCACAF Cup, the tournament which determines the best team in North America. This win gave United the right to challenge the winner of the Copa Libertadores, the champion of South America. In what is considered to be one of the great upsets in 1998, DC United defeated Vasco da Gama, the South American champion which hails from Brazil. That Vasco, a world-renowned club, has existed for over 100 years and United for just three made the win even more amazing. The fact that Ben Olsen, a veritable youngster in the game, played such an integral part in the victory was even more astounding.

Ben has accomplished much already, but the true mark of this young man is that he is hungry for more success, and that he understands the importance of being a professional athlete in today's society. After each game, he stands with his teammates and performs the traditional yet noble gesture of applauding the fans for their support. This simple demonstration, unique to soccer, reminds us all of the good in sports. And for fans of Ben Olsen, of Middletown, PA, it provides a reminder that here is an athlete to whom American youth can look for a role model.

SHADY LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a great day, on which I was fortunate to learn from some of our wisest teachers: kindergarten students. On March 1, 1999, I had the opportunity to read to kindergartners at the Shady Lane Elementary School in Deptford, New Jersey.

Ms. Martha Wilson's Kindergarten class is an outstanding group of young people. I was delighted to help promote reading to young children, and I greatly enjoyed the chance to meet the students in Ms. Wilson's class.

I wish the best of luck to the following kindergartners who shared this special day with me at the Shady Lane School: Courtney Callahan, Nicholas Battee, Jaimie Beekler, Destiny Bingham, Brian Buck, John Childress, Robert Kilcourse, Kody McMichael, Marisa Peters, Matthew Raively, Deborah Robinson, Karen Sabater, Donald Smith, Richard Smith, Marcus Smith, Ayana Thomas, Jessica Welch, George Williams, and Nylan Wolcott.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRODUCE CONSUMERS' RIGHTS-TO-KNOW ACT

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Produce Consumers'